

Jurisdiction

What does Jurisdiction mean in the context of the court?

Jurisdiction is defined as the power of a court to decide cases and issue orders. It is also defined as the geographical area within which a court or government agency may properly exercise its power.

The district court is only a trial court. It is a court of limited jurisdiction. Its authority is generally limited to criminal misdemeanors, minor offenses and civil matters involving claims not exceeding \$100,000 for district court judges and \$10,000 for magistrate judges. AS 22.15.030 -.120.

The superior court is both a trial court and an appellate court. As a trial court, it is a court of general jurisdiction which means that it has authority to hear all types of actions. It is also an appellate court with jurisdiction in all matters appealed to it from the district court or an administrative agency. AS 22.10.020. Although the superior court has jurisdiction to review criminal matters from the district court, in practice most criminal appeals are handled by the court of appeals.

The court of appeals is an appellate court only, with jurisdiction to review criminal and delinquency matters. AS 22.07.020. It does not hear civil appeals.

The supreme court is an appellate court only, with final appellate jurisdiction in all actions and proceedings. AS 22.05.010. It hears all civil appeals from the superior court. It decides which criminal appeals it hears from the court of appeals.

